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10th October 2023

Director – Energy Assessments,
Development Assessment,
Department of Planning and Environment,
4 Parramatta Square,
12 Darcy Street,
Parramatta NSW 2150

Dear Sir/Madam,

**SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT OF THE
HUMELINK PROJECT – APPLICATION NO SSI-36656827**

I hereby submit this response to the HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement report.

I object to the HumeLink proposal on a number of grounds, as follows:

1. Farming Operations

I believe that this project will have short- and long-term negative impacts on the farming operations at Elmside. I am concerned that it will cause immense disruption to our operations and that we will not be compensated appropriately as we do not have the resources to fight this battle. We are farmers, not solicitors or accountants and the battle is skewed in Transgrids favour. The 4 volume EIS is a great example of this. Many landholders do not have the expertise or time to properly digest and respond to this massive document. We are at this alone. It is not a fair battle.

2. Environment

Our family has been improving this land for over 100 years. We have been maintaining soils, pastures, tree lines and waterways. The easement will remove all trees within the 70m easement. These trees include established tree lines and 60 year old established elm trees. These trees cannot be replaced quickly. They provide fodder and shelter for our animals. I am concerned that this will disrupt the native birdlife also and that this hasn't been given enough consideration. Superb parrots and wedge tail eagles are common in the areas this line will go through. The beautiful spaces these lines will destroy is heartbreaking.

3. Noise & Vibration Impacts

I am concerned that the noise & vibration impacts during both construction and operation of the transmission lines has been underestimated and that this will negatively affect both houses on our property. My sons young family will be highly impacted by the construction

and operation of these lines. I am concerned that there will be no effective way of mitigating these impacts.

4. Bushfire Risk

I am concerned that the lines will significantly increase the potential for property damage in the case of a bushfire as there will be less resources available to fight the fire. Aircraft will be limited, and firefighters will be unable/unwilling to fight the fire close to powerlines. This increases the risk to our property in the event of a bushfire. I am concerned that this impact has been underestimated. The community believe the significance of this impact is high, not low. We have requested that the lines be placed underground so that our property and the people and animals on it have the best chance at remaining safe if there is a bushfire.

5. Visual Amenity

Currently, our land does not have powerlines. It is "green fields". After these lines go through, one residence will look at them 300m from their kitchen window and the other from the west side of the house and verandah. I am concerned that Transgrid are not listening to the importance and value we put on visual amenity and landscape. We have requested that these lines be placed underground to preserve our landscapes and visual amenity.

6. Engagement Process

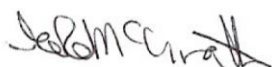
I believe Transgrid have exaggerated their attempts to consult and engage with the community. I believe they have not answered ours or the community's questions and that they have lost our trust by presenting, what I believe, misleading cost information of the undergrounding option. We continue to be told we'll be compensated, however a lot of sleep is lost over our fears of being undercompensated. We expect the value that we place on this land and the negative impact of these lines to be very different to the value Transgrid will place on it.

7. Positive Net Benefit

I am concerned that Transgrid have not included appropriate social and environmental costs, as requested by the community, into their cost benefit analysis and are therefore presenting a positive net benefit which does not accurately represent the cost/benefit of the project.

- I acknowledge and accept the Department of Planning and Environment's disclaimer and declaration.
- Declaration of political donations: No.

Yours sincerely,



Elizabeth McGrath